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02.27.25



NOAH SGAMBELLONE successfully completed his one-year probationary period with Springfield Township Fire Department. Over the past year, Sgambellone has demonstrated dedication, professionalism and hard work, consistently going above and beyond expectations. Sgambellone is congratulated by Springfield Township Fire Chief Adam Spellman.

Pioneer BOE appoints board members to committees for 2025

At the Feb. 17 meeting, the Pioneer Board of Education administered the Oath of Office to re-appointed board members Bill McFarland, Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center; and Erin Stine, Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center.

Gavyn Bazley was appointed to the Richland County and Huron County Tax Incentive Review Committees and Gregory Nickoli to the Crawford County Tax Incentive Review Committee for 2025.

The board approved an affiliation agreement with Avita Health Systems and the second amendment to the award agreement with the Ohio Department of Higher Learning.

The annual board member/administrator dinner meeting will be March 26.

Donations were accepted from Civista Bank, Shelby; \$500 to be deposited and used for the Annual Civista Bank Scholarship; and Vicki Wittmer, Mansfield, various cosmetology items with an approximate value of \$8,135 to be used in the cosmetology programs.

The board approved student participation in competitive events including the State DECA Competition at Columbus Convention Center, March 11-12, for Bucyrus students and chaperones.

Victoria Hunt will retire as Career Pathways Specialist, effective May 31, 2025. Lynette Moritz will retire as Media Communications Instructor, effective June 1, 2025.

Voluntary transfers were approved for Fritz Fagan, IT Support Instructor to Cybersecurity Instructor, beginning with the 2025-'26 school year; and Josh Broughton, Technology Field Technician to IT Support Instructor beginning with the 2025-'26 school year.

Katie Eichorn, science instructor, was approved for leave without pay, effective March 14, 2025.

(Continued on Page 6)

Madison School Board approves hirings, volunteers and donations

The Madison Local School Board of Education met Feb. 19, at Madison Middle School.

JoNell Aron was recognized as a retiree. A presentation was given by Eric Turlo, student services director.

A donation of 1,000 pounds of scrap steel, including angle, channel and flat bar, was accepted from Kokosing Construction to be used by Madison's Welding Technology program.

A donation of \$171 was accepted from the Mifflin Elementary PTO to the principal fund for the family of Braxton Cole.

A donation of \$150.07 was accepted from Mifflin Elementary PTO to the principal fund for art supplies.

A donation of carbon steel, stainless steel and aluminum sheeting was approved from Gorman Rupp to be used by Madison's Welding Technology program.

Treasurer Bradd Stevens gave the monthly financial report. The board approved the health insurance premium rates for calendar year 2025 and the 2025 mileage reimbursement rate per the IRS rate to be effective July 1, 2025, in accordance with the negotiated agreement and policy po6550.

A resolution was approved authorizing Metropolitan Educational Technology Association (META), acting jointly as a member of the Ohio School Consortium to obtain pricing for Ohio Edison company accounts consistent with the prior issued 2024 request for proposal for the purchase of competitive retail electric service from the lowest and best bidder submitted to the consortium for AEP Ohio accounts and authorizing the board to purchase competitive retail electric service from such bidder.

Jeff Burkholder resigned as a spring fitness coordinator, effective Feb. 13.

Supplemental positions for the 2024-'25 school year were approved for Tim Niswander, softball head varsity; Chris Clapper, softball assistant varsity (JV) ½; Mico Castelveter, softball assistant varsity (JV) ½; Kim Boehm, track assistant varsity; Bill Roth, track assistant varsity; Michael Anderson, track head varsity; Nick Melton, baseball head varsity; and Kalen Oslie, baseball assistant varsity.

Stipends were approved for the new sport of girls' wrestling for the 2024-'25 school year. These include Chad Hutcheson, assistant girls' wrestling coach, \$1,200; and David Gilbert, assistant girls' wrestling coach, \$1,200. The recommendation for Bryan Mosier as a head girls' wrestling coach will be reconsidered at the March meeting.

James "JD" Utt was hired as a Medical Assisting Technologies/Phlebotomy/STNA instructor for Madison Adult Career Center.

Substitute teachers hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2024-'25 school year are Tessa Dale, Tori Jackson, Joseph Stupka and Hanna Brown.

Volunteers approved were Julia Litt, girls' softball; Tim Carper, girls' softball; Chad Reynolds, boys' tennis; and Zac Huff, baseball.

Substitute employees hired on an "on call" basis, as needed for the 2024-'25 school year are Tiffany Miller, cafeteria; Rachel Caldwell, cafeteria; Diana Donahue, bus driver; and Gary Purvis, custodial.

Tiffany Miller resigned as a 4-hour cafeteria worker at the high school.

Other hirings included Lillie Southerland, assistant teacher, MECLC; Philip Mata, day-shift custodian, high school; Wanda Boyce, 4-hour cafeteria, high school; Brittany Tingley, assistant teacher, MECLC; and Jacqueline French, assistant teacher, MECLC.

An unpaid leave of absence was approved for Heather Wendland, special education paraprofessional at Madison South Elementary, effective Jan 15, 2025 through Oct. 31, 2025.

Membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association for the 2025-'26 school year was approved.

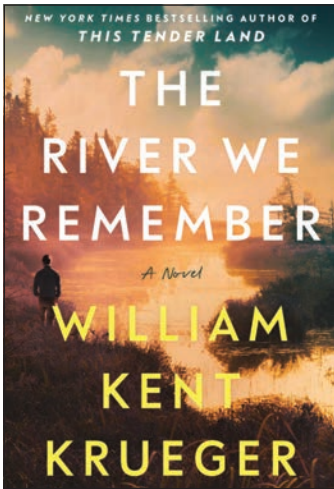
An overnight trip was approved for BPA students who qualified

(Continued on Page 7)

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Mandy Belczak Gurney



The River We Remember by William Kent Krueger is a story about a small town still traumatized by the horrors of war.

When local police officer Brody learns about a dead body found in the local river, rumors fly, accusations are made and the investigation unfolds.

This author has been recommended to me time and time again. I really pushed myself to read this one because I know so many people loved it. Unfortunately, I didn't.

I have a lot of respect for the themes the author brought to light. They were heavy, yet powerful.

But third person perspective is usually not the best fit for me. I struggled to keep track of so many characters and regularly felt like there was missing information.

I think the style of writing was trying to make it more mysterious, but for me, it just felt like I never deeply got to know the characters enough to care about them.

The end was good, but just slow.

If you read this book and understood it, please send me a message because I have so many questions!

My rating: ★★

Follow my blog at GreenGurneys.com

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXAMINER

— By Ian Stumbo —



Dreamworks Studios' *The Wild Robot* is one of the best animated films (and movies in general) to come out in 2024. This movie is now streaming on Peacock and nominated for the Oscar for animated feature.

A service robot crashes into a vast forest. This robot, named Roz, is forced to make friends with the wildlife as her signals do not work to notify the company that she needs help. Roz soon find an abandoned egg and becomes an unexpected mother to a young duckling.

Dreamworks does such a terrific job with the animation and driving the storyline. The filmmakers make the audience feel so much for Roz as she is thrust into this unknown situation. The voice actors do a terrific job in making these characters

come to life. Lupita Nyong'o voices Roz with Pedro Pascal, Matt Berry, Catherine O'Hara, Ving Rhames and Bill Nighy rounding out the terrific cast.

The Wild Robot is so well written and driven by Roz's engaging storyline with the wild animals and how they have to help her survive in the wild while also being a very touching story of parenthood as Roz's duckling grows up.

I was glad to finally see this movie as it was one of the most praised films of the year and I will add to that. What a terrific animated film this is full of heart, humor and adventure sequences, *The Wild Robot* is great.



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News Briefs

The Franklin Township Fire Department, 505 Boyce Rd., Mansfield, will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 15, from 7 to 10 am. Proceeds benefit the volunteer fire department.

★

First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, will host Pancakes and Jazz on Tuesday, March 4, from 5–6:30 pm.

There will be pancakes with toppings, sausage and donuts with a performance by the Redemption Jazz Band. A free will offering will be accepted.

★

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am. February through May, the group will meet at New Life Church of Christ (NLC of C), 195 W. Durbin, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal.

Meetings June through December will be held at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$16, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be held on March 19 with roast beef and a performance by the Clearfork High School Artisans. Those attending are asked to wear green.

The group will also meet March 2, at 11 am, for lunch at Logan's Roadhouse in Ontario.

For information visit www.lexasc.org. Dues are \$10 per year.

★

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, March 1 and 2. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

★

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Christopher Reynolds who will speak on "The Hunt for the Holy: Soul Cross-Training with Sweat Lodge and Trance-Channeled" on Sunday, March 2 at 10:30 am. For information visit www.allsoulsuohio.org.

★

The Richland County Board of Commissioners has released the State of the County video. This video highlights the 2024 year in review and includes presentations from Richland County Commissioners Tony Vero, Darrell Banks and Cliff Mears, as well as Richland County Administrator Andrew Keller, Clerk of Courts Denise Ruhl and Prosecutor Jodie Schumacher.

The video spotlights several of the county's important projects, community investments and financial position. It is the second an-

nual State of the County video released by the commissioners as part of the board's emphasis on transparency and local government accountability. The video can be viewed by visiting <https://youtu.be/iv10bKvGBFw>.

★

The Sixth Annual Step into Spring will be held Friday, March 19 at the Richland Mall. Walking will be anytime from 9 am to noon.

Richland Newhope, Area Agency in Aging and Richland County Mobility Management are sponsoring this free event to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and promote community inclusion. In addition to the walk, several supportive community vendors will be in attendance.

★

The Malabar Farm Maple Syrup Festival will be held March 1, 2, 8 and 9, from noon to 4 pm. There will be syrup making demonstrations, horse drawn wagon rides and food and maple products for sale. The festival is held at 4050 Bromfield Rd, Lucas.

★

CACY's Store it Safe Richland Program offers lock boxes for firearms, sharp objects and medications to protect and reduce risk of injury and save lives. Contact the CACY office at 419-774-5683 or andersont@cacyohio.com for details. If someone is thinking of harming themselves, call the local crisis helpline at 419-522-HELP (4357).

★

The Ashland Cancer Crusaders Relay for Life Team will host a Relay for Life Craft Extravaganza on Saturday, April 5, from 9 am to 3 pm at Ashland County Fairground's Mozell Hall.

Along with vendors, there will be food and a 50/50 drawing. All money raised from the rental fees and the 50/50 will go to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life.

★

The Richland County Republican Party will host a First Monday Luncheon on March 3, in the Kobacker Room at DLX Events and Catering, 28 N. Main St., in downtown Mansfield. Guest speaker will be Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Department of Development.

The event will be from 11:45 am to 1 pm. Lunches are \$10 and are optional. RSVP at 419-528-8223 or email rcohgop@gmail.com.

The Richland County Republican Party will host the Lincoln Day Dinner on May 8. Vivek Ramaswamy will be the keynote speaker.

Details will be released in the near future.

★

Ontario United Methodist Church will host Mansfield Korean Church and 1st UMC for Ash Wednesday Services Tuesday, March 5, at 7 pm. Rev Nestor Nazario, District Superintendent of the West Plains District, will be the guest preacher. All are welcome. A reception will follow.

★

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Flying Horse Farms camper application deadline nearing

Flying Horse Farms (FHF) is a medical specialty camp for kids with serious illnesses to experience joy, connection and fun at no cost. The farm is making a final call for camper applications for the 2025 camp season. Camper priority applications will close on Monday, March 17.

Families with kids (ages 7–21) living with a range of diagnoses can apply for residential summer camps and family camp weekends. The deadline for camper applications is March 17, with the spring family camp weekend application due by March 3 and the summer family camp application due by June 30.

Diagnoses served at camp include cancer, heart conditions, rheumatologic diagnoses, blood disorders, lung conditions, gastrointestinal disorders, craniofacial diagnoses, spinal cord diagnoses and internalized mental health diagnoses.

In addition to residential camps, FHF offers weekends for families to come together to experience camp, connection and healing. Family weekends are also at no cost to the family and occur in April, July, and October–November 2025.

To make camp magic possible, FHF seasonal hiring remains open. Current available roles include activity counselors, cabin counsel-

ors, content specialists, entertainment team, facilities team, kitchen crew, lifeguards, psychosocial team, seasonal nurses and staff and team leaders.

FHF is also seeking dedicated medical professionals to support camp sessions. Physicians, nurses, and specialists play a crucial role in ensuring a safe and enriching experience for campers with serious health conditions.

The farm is located at 5260 State Route 95 in Mt. Gilead, OH. For information call 419-751-7077.

Interested families, seasonal staff and medical volunteers can apply by visiting <https://flyinghorsefarms.org/come-to-camp/>



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Church Directory

Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

1601 Amoy East Rd., Mansfield
419-747-6882
Pastor Carol Kilgore
Sunday School 9:15 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Clear Fork Alliance Church

1008 State Route 97, Bellville
419-886-4333 • www.clearforkalliance.org
Rev. Matt Merendino
Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups
Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm
Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm Prayer Meeting
6:30–8 pm TeamKID and Youth Group

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield
419-524-4813 • mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com
Rev. David Zerby
Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm
10:30 am Sunday Worship
Christian Builders, Sunday, 9:30 am
www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com
FB: FirstChristianChurch,Mansfield,Ohio

First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3046 • www.mansfieldfcc.com
Pastor Brad Bunn
8:30 am Chapel
10:30 am Sanctuary
10:30 am Sunday School (nursery–high school)
10:30 am Monday Morning Bible Study
7:30 am Wednesday Men's Breakfast

First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
419-522-0662 • www.felc-mansfield.org
Pastor Jay Jackson
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship
Call about Prayer Groups, Small Groups, Bible
Studies, Book Clubs, Pub Theology, Community
Meals, Free Produce distribution and Senior Boxes.

Lexington Church of Christ

230 Delaware Ave., Lexington
419-884-1532 • www.lccoh.com
Lead Minister Brandon Bogue
9 am Sunday School
10 am Sunday Worship

Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington
419-884-1330
Pastor Denny Nezrick
10:30 am Sunday Worship
<https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyterian-Church-117768414915815>

Mansfield 1st EPC

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield
419-756-7066 • www.mansfield1st.com
Rev. Joseph Yerger
9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School
10 am Traditional Sunday Worship
ADA Accessible Nursery
and Children's Programming Available

Mansfield Baptist Temple

752 N. Stewart Rd., Mansfield
419-589-5413 • www.mbt.org
Pastor Rob Kurtz
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am & 5:30 pm Sunday Worship
7 pm Wednesday Service

Oakland Lutheran Church

2045 Olivesburr Rd., Mansfield
419-571-9920
Pastor Paul Lintern
9 am Sunday Worship

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario
419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com
Pastor George Lee
10:15 am Sunday Worship
10:15 am Kingdom Kids

St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Proietti
10 am Sunday Worship
Office hours: Mon–Fri 9 am to 1 pm
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm
Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2055 Middle-Bellville Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3436
Pastor Paul Lintern
10:45 am Sunday Worship

Trinity Grace Fellowship

1592 Grace St., Mansfield
419-589-5890 • trinitygracefellowship.org
Pastor Larry Carnes
9:30 am Sunday Worship
11 am Sunday School
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

G & M Body & Paint Shop

1689 West Fourth St., Ontario
419-529-2747

Wappner Funeral Home

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Local services showcased during Ohio Loves Transit Week

During Ohio Loves Transit Week, Richland County Transit (RCT) teamed up with Richland County Mobility Management to host special rides for seniors, OSU students and elected officials. These rides highlighted the vital role of local transit services in the community.

Public transit systems like RCT keep communities connected — linking residents to jobs, medical appointments, education, shopping and more.

In the past year, RCT provided over 128,000 trips, ensuring reliable transportation for workers, students, patients, and patrons. Statewide, Ohio's transit agencies deliver over 59 million trips annually.

RCT offers service Monday through Friday, from 6 am to 6:30 pm, depending on the route. Services include fixed-route buses and Dial-A-Ride ADA paratransit across Mansfield, as well as parts of Ontario and Madison Township. For more information or to schedule free travel training, call 419-522-4504 or visit RCTBuses.com.

Richland County Mobility Management helps older adults and individuals with disabilities find and coordinate transportation options, ensuring they can safely and easily get to essential places like medical appointments, employment and education while also finding solutions when there are gaps in transportation needs. It enhances mobility access by raising awareness and understanding of transportation needs. Those in need of assistance with transportation can contact 567-247-6483 or email mobilitymanagement@aaa5ohio.org.

Domestic Violence Shelter seeks volunteers to help support survivors

The Domestic Violence Shelter is seeking compassionate and motivated community members to support its work through volunteer service. Volunteer positions include general volunteer, event volunteer, front desk advocate volunteer, hospital advocate volunteer, support group assistant volunteer and youth volunteer.

Prospective volunteers must be 18 years of age (those under 18 may serve in limited capacities and with appropriate supervision as outlined in the volunteer information packet). Due to the sensitive nature of the shelter's work, prospective volunteers must undergo an application, interview and screening process prior to engaging in service.

Volunteers must be committed to the shelter's mission and dedicated to ending domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking and supporting survivors of violence. Volunteers must show respect for the people the shelter serves and be committed to upholding confidentiality laws. Compassion, empathy, and a non-judgmental attitude are essential qualities for volunteers.

Last year alone, The Domestic Violence Shelter provided housing for 143 individuals, answered 847 crisis calls, offered advocacy during 180 SANE exams, and educated over 1,400 people in the local community. These vital services wouldn't be possible without the dedication of volunteers.

"From supporting clients directly to helping with essential tasks such as cleaning or administrative work, every role makes a lasting difference," said Volunteer Coordinator Katherine Henderson. "Volunteers are the heart of our operations, and without them, we couldn't deliver the life-changing services our community relies on."

Learn more about volunteer opportunities and apply to serve by contacting Katherine Henderson at 419-774-5843 ext. 100, or by email at khenderson@thedvshelter.com.

Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

Beverly J Ferguson, February 16
Diane Lynn Jeffery, February 16
Edna Mae Zeigler, February 16
Richard Arthur Schuffert, February 18
James Rigby Albro, February 19
William W Dignin, February 20
JoAnn Waddington, February 20

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•Pioneer BOE appoints board members to committees for 2025

(Continued from Front Page)

A chaperone stipend for the HOSA Regional Leadership Conference for Karrie Davisson was approved for \$50.

Katharine Sabourin will retire as student services secretary, effective June 30, 2025. Sheryl Young will retire as support secretary, effective June 30, 2025.

Jacquelynn Arnold, educational aide, resigned, effective Feb. 28, 2025. Substitute classified staff hired included Allyson Ramsey, Shelby, substitute custodian; and Catherine Spayde, Norwalk, substitute aide.

Additional contract hours were approved for adult education certified personnel including Joan Kanne, Adult Education LPN coordinator, up to 20 hours per week beginning February 2025 through June 2025.

Employment of Adult Education certified personnel included Ashley Draper, Mansfield, LPN instructor; Rebecca Holbrook, Plymouth, Medical Assisting instructor; Abigail Hoven, Amherst, LPN instructor; Karleigh Prochaska, Mansfield, LPN instructor; Justin Tuttle, Crestline, instructor for Customized Training; and Amber Wurgler, Mansfield LPN instructor.

The board approved contracted services of the adjunct performing arts instructor.

The board approved an agreement with Apptegy, Inc and the MOU with Crestline for the Career Exploration program.

The board approved revisions to existing policy, rescinded existing policy and adopted new policy.

The board also adopted Resolution 02-25 to adopt the Special Education Model Policies and Procedures; Resolution 03-25 in Appreciation to Galion Fire Department for its donation valued at approximately \$24,000; and Resolution 04-25 for approval of the superintendent to accept resignations.

The Pioneer Student Achievement Liaison Report was submitted by Shannon Sprang. She reported:

On Friday, Jan. 10, 15 students represented Pioneer at the HO-SA Regional Leadership Conference at the University of Toledo. All participants competed well, and following will advance to the state competition in April: Ruby Conn, Lucas, and Aaliyah Gonzalez, Ontario, on the Health Career Display Team; Chevelle Jones, Northmor, Sports Medicine; Isabella Kimberlin, South Central, and Kylie Mosley, Willard for the Health Career Display Team; Elizabeth Lopez-Lopez, Willard, Dental Terminology; Kendall Naufzinger, Wynford, Dental Terminology; and LaVanna Sanders, Crestline, Dental Terminology.

The Cyberpatriot team advanced to semi-finals. The team of Kyle Knight of Northmor, Ethan Showman of Shelby and Brien Walker of Northmor, advanced to the semi-final round of competition on Jan. 24. Results had not been released at the time of publication.

Kris Bruce, a Crestline Satellite instructor for Pioneer, and her eleventh grade Family Consumer Science/FCCLA students were awarded a \$1,250 stipend from FCCLA and the Ohio Department of Public Safety to complete their FACTS project this year.

Pioneer Bucyrus students participated in the District III DECA Conference at the University of Findlay on Jan. 28. Students advancing to the state competition in Columbus March 10–11 are Maddison Tyrrell, Isabella Stang, Joselyn Lykins, Lilly Butchko, Jenna Ashley, Ethan Guerrero, Grace Jackson, Aysiz Wade and Layla Swerlein. Joselyn Lykins will represent Bucyrus as a potential state officer.

Pioneer Career and Technology Center announced Zylar Roberts and Audrey Wolford as January 2025 Students of the Month.

A senior from Bucyrus High School, Zylar is enrolled in the Precision Machining Technologies program, where he has demonstrated a great work ethic and dedication.

Beyond his school activities, Zylar is strongly committed to helping others. He mows lawns and shovels sidewalks for older neighbors free of charge.

Reflecting on his time at Pioneer, Zylar shares, "I've learned so much in the last two years and never thought I would enjoy high school this much."

Looking ahead, Zylar plans to enter an apprenticeship while working and attending college for four years to earn his Journeyman's card in Tool & Die.

A junior from Crestview High School, Audrey is thriving in the Early Childhood Education program and demonstrating a passion for working with young children. At Crestview, Audrey has been dedicated to Cross Country for five years, showcasing her perseverance and teamwork. This year, she and her team qualified for the state competition, placing an impressive seventh.

In her free time, Audrey enjoys running, babysitting, and spending time outside, activities that reflect her energetic and caring nature. She also has volunteered in the nursery at her church.

Reflecting on her experience at Pioneer, Audrey shared, "I'm so grateful I decided to come to Pioneer!"

Looking to the future, she dreams of becoming an infant teacher.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

WILL BE THE LAST DAY FOR PAYMENT
OF **FIRST HALF 2024** REAL ESTATE TAX
WITHOUT PENALTY AND INTEREST

The County Treasurer is not legally responsible for
your failure to receive proper bills — Sec. 323.13 R.C.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not void interest
and penalty — Sec. 323.08.

The following financial institutions and their
branches are authorized
agencies for receiving **FIRST HALF 2024**
real estate tax payments.

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CIVISTA BANK, SHELBY, OHIO
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BART W. HAMILTON
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March of Prayer returns to local congregations

A Year of Jubilee is the theme of this year's March of Prayer in the Mansfield and surrounding area. It is 31 nights of prayer services from 6-8 pm, each in a different location.

"This is the seventh year we have held a March of Prayer, and Biblically, seven is the number of completion, called a Year of Jubilee in the Old Testament," said coordinator Paul Lintern.

The first March of Prayer was an idea that came out of a series of prayer services held at St. Luke's Point of Grace, 2 Marion Ave., with Lintern and Jordon Baker recruiting the line-up.

Each host is invited to create a service authentic to their way of worship and invite anyone to come and participate. Nearly 260 March of Prayer services have been held over the years.

The 2025 schedule includes March 1, Fusion-Madison, 2170 Park Avenue East; March 2, Zion's Refuge, 1400 Lucas Rd. (Rt. 39); March 3, Clay Memorial, Bowman and Amoy East; March 4, Awake, 3616 St. Rt. 39, Shelby; March 5, Oakland Lutheran, 2045 Olivesburg Rd.; March 6, The MAC, 291 W. Cook Rd.;

March 7, Christian Life, 961 Springmill St.; March 8, Greater Mitchell Chapel AME, 182 S. Adams St.; March 9, Potter's House, 374 Willowood Dr. East, Ontario; March 10, Grace Fellowship, 365 Straub Road East; March 11, Providence Baptist, 112 W. Sixth St.; March 12, First United Methodist, 12 N. Diamond; March 13, Salvation Army, 47 S. Main St.; March 14, Paradise Church, 87 Illinois Ave N.; March 15, Kingdom Life, 7 Consolidated Rd., Shelby; March 16, Kingdom

Grace Fellowship, 105 Reba Ave.; March 17, First English Lutheran, 53 Park Avenue West; March 18, Holy Trinity Lutheran, 525 W. Cook Rd.; March 19, Journey Life Center, 2578 Springmill Rd.; March 20, Recovery Road, 378 Park Ave. West (ARC Empowerment Center); March 21, Open Bible, 1150 Rayfield Dr., with a performance by Glory Way; March 22, Sar Shalom (10:30 am), 2510 W. Fourth St., Ontario, guest speaker from Israel; March 23, Linden Road Presby-

terian, 160 S. Linden Rd.; March 24, Mansfield Foursquare Gospel, 393 Davidson. St.; March 25, Abundant Life, 1085 Bedford Blvd, Ontario; March 26, Avenue, Gathering, 1756 Park Ave. West; March 27, River Church, 152 Cline Ave.; March 28, Faith Global Methodist, Rte 96, across from Crestview High School; March 29, Fusion, Lexington, 2200 Industrial Parkway; March 30, Gracepoint Lexington, 1887 W. Cook Rd.; and March 31, Storvside, 541 St. Rt. 97, Bellville.

•Madison Board approves hirings and volunteers

(Continued from Front Page)

for state competition to attend the BPA State Leadership Conference March 10-11, 2025 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, at no cost to the board.

The board will notify the M.L.E.A. President about the board of education's decision to consider a reduction in force effective with the 2025-'26 school year. This notification will also go to the O.A.P.S.E. President.

The 2025-'26 school calendar was approved.

A resolution was also approved stating the board of education adopts the Special Education Model Policies and Procedures that were released by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce in December 2024, and directs all staff in the district to use and comply with the model policies.

The next regular board of education meeting will be March 19, at 6 pm in the Madison Middle School Auditoria.



Sportsman's Showcase

March 8-9, 2025

Saturday 10-4 • Sunday 11-4

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2042 CLAREMONT AVENUE, ASHLAND, OH 44805

Admission \$5 All proceeds benefit **Advocates for Families**



VENDORS & DEMOS

OUTBACK RAY'S AMAZING ANIMAL SHOW - SUNDAY AT 1:30 PM

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KIDS FISHING POND • FOOD TRAILERS

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Fin Feather Fur • Tyler's Wood Working • 7 Rivers Marine

Gettin Bit Fishin Team • 16 Cups of Flour

Hotshots Shooting Center • Ashland County Park District

Ashland County Dog Shelter (adopt a dog)

Ashland County Conservation Farm • Ohio River Outdoors • AND MORE!!



Questions? email Sandy at sburkholder@agoc.com



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Celebrate the **great outdoors!**

Road Apple Run is Saturday

The 19th Annual Road Apple Run 5K road race will be held Saturday, March 1, at 10 am. Race day registration will begin at 8:30 am in the commons area of Crestview High School, 1575 OH-96, Ashland.

The Road Apple Run will be an out and back 5K race on a scenic country road in northern Richland County. Bordered by several peaceful Amish farms, the course is mostly flat with some slight upgrades. The biggest challenge will be avoiding the 'exhaust' from the frequent travel of the horse drawn vehicles.

The entry fee is \$25. Entry includes a raffle ticket for a chance to win gift baskets and gift cards.

To register online visit <https://registration.midohiorm.com/events/2025-road-apple-run-5k-road-race-12302024234>.

Awards will go to the first and second place male and female finishers in the age groups of 10 and under, 11-12; 13-15; 16-18; 19-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; and 70+. Overall awards will be presented to the top first and second place in each gender.

The Savannah Lions Club will offer a breakfast by donation only.

All proceeds from the 5K will support Crestview's track and cross country teams. Donations are also being accepted to help pay for expenses. For more information contact Amy McFarland at 419-895-1700 ext. 18105 or roadapplerun@gmail.com.



Marblehead Lighthouse • Photo By Mark Shutt

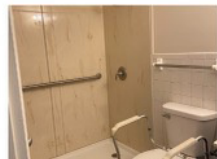
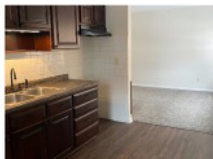
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Scholarships available to local students

The Area Agency on Aging announced the start of its 2025 Scholarship Program, aimed at supporting individuals pursuing higher education or certification in the field of aging or disability services.

Scholarships awarded include \$2,000 for a student attending a 4- year university; \$1,000 for a student attending a 2-year college, technical school, center of education, or pursuing a certification; and \$1,000 for a student attending any type of higher institute of learning or certification and a retiree or staff member of the Area Agency on Aging or is a child (step) or grandchild (step) of an actively employed (full-time or part-time) Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. staff member.

Applicants can visit aaa5ohio.org for detailed eligibility criteria and application instructions. The deadline is March 15, 2025.



Learn more about Alzheimer's disease
and win prizes while playing BINGO!

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 1:00 pm
Galion Golden Age Center

301 S. Market St. | Galion, Ohio



For any questions, contact Jennifer Miller at 567.302.3610

Connect with us - alz.org/nw ohio | alz.org | 800.272.3900



KNOX COUNTY CAREER CENTER students James Bennett, Pierce Leasure, Jayden Flack and Coen Frazier (and Ayden Kennedy, Blake Green and Kadence Mickley, not pictured) earned "BT Elite" status recently and received their hoodies and interview shirts.

Seven KCCC students earn Building Trades Elite status

The Knox County Career Center (KCCC) Building Trades program recognized seven students who earned the status of "Building Trades Elite."

"Building Trades Elite" (BT Elite) is a program generated by Colby Clippinger, KCCC Building Trades instructor and the KCCC Building Trades Advisory Council that began in 2019-'20.

The program's criteria centers around attendance, discipline, industry credentialing, and extracurricular activities. A point system is set up where students earn points for attendance, grades, industry credentialing, and extracurricular activities.

Students can lose points for being tardy, absent, and for discipline issues. In order to earn "BT Elite" status, students must earn 250 points and must maintain 250 points or higher until graduation to keep the "BT Elite" status.

The "BT Elite" program is completely company-sponsored according to Clippinger. Students who earn "BT Elite" status are awarded a hoodie and an interview shirt. The companies pay for the hoodies and interview shirts. The hoodie has the Building Trades Elite crest on the back along with the company sponsors. The student's name and "BT Elite" are on the front of the hoodie. The interview shirt has "BT Elite" and the student's name on the front.

Clippinger commented, "We appreciate the companies who have partnered with us on the "BT Elite" program. The "BT Elite" program creates a well-rounded and ready-to-hire student."

Students James Bennett, Pierce Leasure, Jayden Flack, Coen Frazier, Ayden Kennedy, Blake Green and Kadence Mickley earned "BT Elite" status recently and received their hoodies and interview shirts. Fifty-nine students from the Building Trades program have now earned "BT Elite" status since its inception.

"The BT Elite program has had a profound impact on the students. It continually helps keep students accountable for themselves and they are now encouraging other students to attain the same level. This will only improve the quality of tradespeople entering into the workforce," added Clippinger.

KCCC & the Building Trades program would like to thank the companies who sponsor "BT Elite". Thank you to J & B Acoustical, Ohio Contractors Association, ProTech Basement Solutions, LiUNA! Local 1216, Kokosing, Corna Kokosing, Brennstuhl Construction, Modern Builders, Gray Mechanical, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 735, Holmes Rental & Sales, Meade Roofing Services, Small's Sand & Gravel, Ellis Brothers, Igel, Ruhlin, Knox Concrete, ACP, Mack Industries and Rietschlin Construction.



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL FCCLA hosted a Spirit Week with theme days including PJ Day, Farmer Day, Blue & Gold Day, Camo Day and Red Out.

Plymouth FFA hosts emergency preparedness day luncheon

The Plymouth FFA hosted an emergency preparedness day and first responder appreciation assembly and luncheon recently.

High school students attended eight different sessions that were 28 minutes each including a session with firefighters and EMTs from the Shelby and Shiloh Fire Departments; blood and organ donation services from the American Red Cross and Lifeline of Ohio; impaired driving from the Ohio State Richland County Extension Office; accident scene preparedness from Plymouth Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Office and the State Highway Patrol; basic first aid from Fenix Private Ambulance Service of Mansfield; -CPR/EPIP-en/Heimlich Maneuver/Blood Glucose Monitoring and other emergency situations from school nurse Kristen Grove; survival skills from outdoorsman Rodger Frydrychowski; and basic car maintenance from Nick Laferty of Ag Repair Service

An assembly was held in the gymnasium, followed by a luncheon for first responders.

Registered student driver received a free kit valued around \$50. The kit included first aid kit with gloves, emergency triangle, road-side flare, fire starter, multi-screwdriver, all-purpose weather resistant tarp (5'x7'), jumper cables, sinch closed drawstring bag, tire pressure gauges, ice scraper, hand sanitizer packets, flashlight and emergency glucose and emergency water.

A special thank you to the Ohio FFA Foundation, Heritage Cooperative, Trillium Farms, The Ohio Department of Agriculture, Plymouth FFA, Plymouth American Legion, Plymouth American Legion Auxiliary and Plymouth-Shiloh FFA Alumni for helping to provide kit contents.

OhioHealth donated Stop the Bleed tourniquets which students received after additional training in May and Mercy Health donated gloves for the first aid kits.

SHF Applications available now

The Board of Directors of Samaritan Hospital Foundation will again offer scholastic awards to persons residing in Ashland County or UH Samaritan Medical Center employees or immediate family members. To be eligible, applicants must be currently enrolled or accepted in an accredited program in the areas of nursing, medicine or allied medical studies.

Completed applications must be returned with appropriate grade transcripts by April 11, 2025, to the Samaritan Hospital Foundation, Attn: Mona Campbell, at 663 E. Main St., Ashland, OH.

Scholastic Award applications for the 2025-'26 academic year are available at www.samaritanhospitalfoundation.org and at University Hospitals Samaritan Medical Center, 1025 Center Street, Ashland, at the main lobby reception desk.

Applications are also available at Samaritan Hospital Foundation at 663 E. Main Street, Ashland, or by contacting the Foundation office at 419-207-7900. Recipients will be notified in late May.

News Briefs in Education

Youngstown State University students named to the dean's list for fall semester 2024. Dean's list recognition is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who have earned at least a 3.4 grade point average for not less than 12 semester hours of credit in the Fall semester.

On the list are Julian Davis of Mansfield and Coy Vantilburg of Mansfield.

★

Marissa Marquardt of Mansfield was among students from Miami University who received degrees during the fall commencement Dec 13, 2024

Marquardt graduated with a B.S. in Business degree, majoring in Supply Chain & Operations Management.

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ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL held its Winter Formal dance recently at the high school.



DONATION — Steve Hendricks, EVP, Northcentral Market President, Premier Bank; Rachel Stine, Executive Director, American Red Cross of Greater Akron and the Mahoning Valley Chapter; Jill Patterson, Senior Regional Philanthropy Officer & Tiffany Circle Division Lead, American Red Cross of Greater Akron and the Mahoning Valley Chapter; and Tara Silva, SVP, Commercial Banker, Premier Bank, celebrate Premier Bank's donation to the American Red Cross.

American Red Cross receives Premier Bank donation

Premier Bank recently donated a check to the American Red Cross of Greater Akron and the Mahoning Valley for \$30,000. The funds will be used to sponsor the 29th Annual Acts of Courage Awards and the Northeast Ohio Hero Awards events.

"We will present the Acts of Courage Awards in March to those residents of Columbiana, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Summit, and Trumbull counties who have acted courageously and selflessly in a time of emer-

gency. We will also present a community member, who has spent a lifetime pursuing good deeds, with the H. Peter Burg Community Leader Award," said Rachel Stine, Executive Director, American Red Cross of Greater Akron and the Mahoning Valley Chapter. "In addition, we will honor those residents of Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula Counties who have acted courageously and selflessly in a time of emergency at the Northeast Ohio Hero Awards in

June. This year, one outstanding community member will receive the first ever Lorraine Doder Community Leader Award!"

"We are proud to support the American Red Cross and to honor individuals that have demonstrated acts of extraordinary courage," said Trish Gelsomino, Foundation Giving Coordinator, Premier Bank. "Together we can spread kindness and make Greater Akron and the Mahoning Valley communities stronger!"

Ohio State University Cockroach Lab provides insight

The dark brown cockroach crawling up professor Agus Muñoz-García's right arm gives him no reason for worry. He grins as the creature makes its way toward his elbow, knowing the encounter is harmless.

Equally harmless are the 1,000-plus cockroaches that he keeps in methacrylate containers in his laboratory. They crawl through empty toilet paper rolls, making their way toward a cup of dog food that supplies their nutrition.

As far as cockroaches go, they seem content — maybe even happy — and most of all harmless.

These oval-shaped bugs are part of a research project that Muñoz-García and his students are conducting to better under-

stand how animals allocate resources for basic life functions like reproduction, growth and maintenance, as well as how they respond to different environmental conditions.

"They are basically like mammals," he said. "The females mate and then they produce embryos contained inside a brood sac. The brood sac secretes a

(Continued on Page 18)



Theatre programs partner for 'Sound of Music'

The Ashland University Theatre Department and The Ashland Kroc Youth Theatre will be partnering in the first joint production of the timeless classic *The Sound of Music* March 21–23 at the Hugo Young Theatre, Ashland University Center for the Arts, 331 College Ave.

Teresa Durbin-Ames, Ph.D., Artistic Director and Associate Professor of Theatre for Ashland University, is serving as the director of the production, and Majors Billy and Annalise Francis, Corps Officers and Administrators of The Salvation Army Ashland Kroc Center, are serving as music and movement directors.

This is the first time the two programs have partnered together, with the impetus being to enable the college students an opportunity to mentor the kids from The Ashland Kroc Youth Theatre program.

"This partnership provides an opportunity for the university to engage directly with the community promoting the arts, bringing new people to campus and creating future audiences," explains Dr. Durbin-Ames. "It is exciting to see the AU students working with the young cast members on this beautiful show. Not only do the youth get to watch how someone older creates a role, but the college students also get to experience the enthusiasm and commitment that the youth bring to every rehearsal."

Cast members include Maria Rainer, Ellie Nickoli of Lexington; Captain Georg von Trapp, Keever Whitehead of Lewis Center; Mother Abbess, Emilee Fletcher of Centerburg; Liesl von Trapp, Callina Francis of Ashland; Rolf Gruber, Owen Radebaugh of Ashland; and Friedrich von Trapp (dual casted), Trevor Kellogg and Nolan Shambaugh, both of Ashland.

Tickets are already on sale. Early birds are encouraged to purchase tickets now.

Show dates and times include Friday, March 21 at 7 pm; Saturday, March 22 at 2 and 7 pm; and Sunday, March 23 at 2 pm.

Tickets are available now for purchase at the AU Campus Store or by going online to www.ashland.edu/performing-arts-tickets. For more information call 419-281-8001.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS LEXINGTON VARSITY PLAYOFF GAME · FEB. 20
LEXINGTON WINS 70-39 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS CLEAR FORK VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL · FEB. 18
CLEAR FORK WINS 39–38 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**CLEAR FORK VS WILLARD VARSITY DIVISION V DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP
COLTS WIN 61-39 · FEB 22 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**CLEAR FORK VS WILLARD VARSITY DIVISION V DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP
COLTS WIN 61-39 · FEB 22 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER**



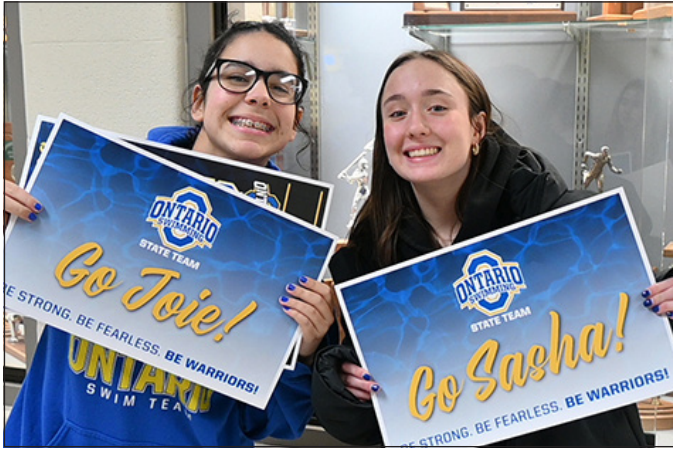
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS MILAN EDISON GIRLS BASKETBALL DISTRICT SEMI FINALS
CLEAR FORK WINS 62-45 · FEB. 19 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL SWIM STATE SEND-OFF



THE ONTARIO third-grade boys basketball team dominated the court, finishing with a perfect 12-0 record and clinching the MOBL Regular Season Championship. Team members are Will M., Luke C., Luke W., Kameron C., Ty K., Owen E. and Graham G.

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DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2025

Notice is hereby given that the City of Ontario intends to sell unneeded, obsolete or unfit municipal personal property by internet sale/auktion during 2025. All sales shall be for cash, shipping or delivery shall be the responsibility of the purchaser, and the sales shall be made through websites as determined to be most effective and efficient in obtaining the best price. The representative of the City for the purpose of internet sales is:

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Service-Safety Director
555 Stumbo Road
Ontario, Ohio 44906
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servicesafetydirector@ontarioohio.org

Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council
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•Ohio State Cockroach Lab provides insight

(Continued from Page 11)

product that is very similar to the milk of mammals. The embryos consume the milk and about two months later, the females give birth to 10-12 nymphs, or baby cockroaches."

Muñoz-Garcia has been a professor with Ohio State for 12 years, and is currently an associate professor of evolution, ecology and organismal biology at Ohio State Mansfield. He is interested in how organisms function as a response to environmental changes – things like temperature, humidity, re-source availability and more.

He first wanted to study mice, but the high cost and the challenge of keeping them in captivity caused him to reconsider. Then one day, at a research conference in Oxford, Ohio, where he met a professor and past graduate student classmate who was studying cockroaches.

That professor, Josh Benoit, set him up with 100 cockroaches. Today, Muñoz-Garcia has between 1,000-2,000 roaches, and is in the midst of new research to document how insects and other living organisms allocate resources.

In the fall of 2024, Muñoz-Garcia moved his lab from Ohio State Columbus, to Ohio State Mansfield. Today, his research involves undergraduate students, as well as co-researchers Josh Benoit, and Paul Ayayee, a biology professor with the University of Nebraska.

The team is working together to document how the roaches allocate resources, and the factors

that control or determine this allocation.

So far, his research points toward a group of proteins, called sirtuins, as being the deciding factor into how resources are allocated.

"Resource allocation is not something that magically occurs or that we necessarily have conscious control over," he said. "We identified this group of proteins, called sirtuins. It seems that these proteins control metabolic processes in the cells. They can activate or deactivate cells."

Destiny Moton is a third-year biology major who works in Muñoz-Garcia's lab. She said the hands-on research she is gaining is a perfect fit for her coursework.

"The work we do in the lab really relates to my biology major very well," she said. We're using a lot of chemistry and we're tracking things that happen not only in insects, but also humans."

Moton is working with Muñoz-Garcia to "tag" the nutrients, by labeling the food molecules the cockroaches consume, and tracking where they go within the body.

She is becoming familiar with a wide range of lab equipment, used to track energy expenditure by measuring oxygen consumption, water loss and much more.

She admits that working with cockroaches was a little intimidating at first.

"Initially, I was a little afraid because I do not like insects," she said. "But Dr. Muñoz-Garcia explained to me the different kinds and behaviors, and now I am comfortable working with them."

A potential breakthrough is the ability to control cancerous tumor growths. Because cancer robs the body of essential resources, there is hope that cancer cells can be controlled by controlling resource allocation.

"An obvious clinical application is for cancer research," said Muñoz-Garcia. "If you can tell the body not to bring resources to the cancer cells, then you can reduce the growth of the tumor or potentially kill it."

While cancer research is certainly possible, his near-term focus is on how the cockroaches respond to different diets, and how they function based on simple manipulations.

Currently, he is studying how nutritional differences affect the cockroaches into adulthood, and how current diet potentially affects the physiology of future generations – a process known as epigenetics.

Muñoz-Garcia plans to publish his findings in various biology journals including "Proceedings of the Royal Society of London" and "Journal of Experimental Biology." In the fall of 2024, he spoke about his research during Ohio State Mansfield's Faculty Research Frenzy.

Sports Highlights

Lexington and Mansfield Senior basketball teams will move on

By Kris Leiter

Division III – Northwest 3 - District Final Championship

Well, here is where I look into my crystal ball and get the excitement brewing about Friday night in Willard. The opponents for that game will be the winners of the Lexington vs. Ashland and Mansfield Senior vs. Sandusky games that will be played Tuesday, Feb. 25. Due to the *Tribune's* Tuesday article deadline, I am making my prediction ahead of "tonight's" game.

The winners of Tuesday's games will battle it out Friday night for a district crown.

Big Lex, (19-3 overall, 11-1) comes in as the number 1 seed in District III, taking on the Ashland Arrows (11-10).

The Minutemen have beat their conference foe, Ashland, twice this year. Back on Jan. 3, they won 71-54 and the second time was Feb. 7, winning narrowly 59-58.

If Mansfield gets by Sandusky, they will advance to district finals Friday.

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